

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-15 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended; and Claims 14 and 15 have been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamara ("JavuNetwork: Remote Video Production and Storage").

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a data-providing apparatus for editing image data in response to a demand transmitted from a data-processing apparatus through the Internet, the data-providing apparatus comprising: (1) first acquisition means for acquiring one or more scenarios, each scenario comprising a plurality of video scenes and each video scene lasting for a predetermined period of time, in response to a demand made by a user of the data-processing apparatus using a web browser; (2) second acquisition means for acquiring a predetermined number of image data items that are used in each scenario, in response to a demand made by the user of the data-processing apparatus using the web browser, wherein the second acquisition means acquires the image data items supplied from another data-processing apparatus other than the data-providing apparatus; (3) user video-data management means for storing said one or more scenarios and said image data items; (4) receiving means for receiving image data items transmitted by the user from the data-processing apparatus through the Internet using the web browser; (5) means for selecting the image data items acquired by the second acquisition means and for randomly allocating the selected image data items to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition

means; and (6) editing means for editing the image data items that are received by the receiving means and allocated to the video scenes of the acquired scenario. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

The Kamara reference is directed to a Java-based network-centric digital editing application that incorporates streaming technology. As shown in Figure 1, the Kamara reference discloses a network-based video editing system in which users can edit digital media using any web browser. In particular, as shown on page 80 of the Kamara reference, users can have their video digitized and upload the files they want to edit directly to a web server or may obtain stock footage from the web server.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Kamara reference fails to disclose means for selecting the image data items acquired by the second acquisition means and for randomly allocating the image data items to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means, as recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the Kamara reference is silent regarding random allocation of image data items to video scenes, as required by amended Claim 1. Regarding the means for selecting and allocating recited in Claim 1, the Office Action asserts that column 5, lines 4-18 of Kamara discloses a drag and drop operation for video editing. However, Applicants respectfully submit that this is not a disclosure of a random allocation of selected image data items to video scenes of a scenario, as required by Claim 1. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over the Kamara reference.

Independent Claims 9, 10, and 12 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 9, 10, and 12 have been amended in a manner

¹ See, e.g., Figure 41 and the disclosure on page 64 of the originally filed specification.

analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 9, 10, and 12 (and dependent Claim 13) are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 9, 10, and 12.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 14 and 15 for examination on the merits. New Claim 14, which depends from Claim 1, clarifies that the data providing apparatus includes means for lengthening an image data item when the image data item is allocated to a scene that is longer than the image data item. Claim 14 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.² Further, Applicants note that new Claim 15, which depends from Claim 1, clarifies that the data providing apparatus further includes randomly selecting a portion of the image data item when the image data item is allocated to a scene that is shorter than the image data item. New Claim 15 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.³

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the Kamara reference.

² See, e.g., step S65 in Figure 42 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

³ See, e.g., step S64 in Figure 42 and the discussion related therein in the specification.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

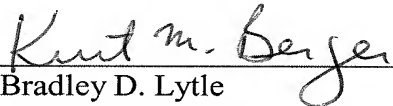
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)


Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

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